

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SY-04 CU-02 /056 W

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R 201101Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7637

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, NI

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF APER AKU

REF: LAGOS 305 AND PREVIOUS

1. APER AKU, ACCUSER OF BENUE-PLATEAU STATE GOVERNOR GOMWALK DETAINED SINCE EARLY SEPTEMBER "FOR SECURITY REASONS", WAS RELEASED BY FMG JANUARY 18. FMG MADE NO STATEMENT, AND AKU HIMSELF SIMPLY THANKED THOSE WHO HAD URGED HIS RELEASE AND AVOIDED COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF CHARGES HE HAD LEVELED AGAINST GOMWALK.

2. COMMENT: FMG ACTION SHOULD HELP DEFUSE NATIONAL UNION OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS (NUNS) MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 25 TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE FUTURE BOYCOTTS IN SUPPORT OF RECENT DETAINEES (REFTEL). WHILE AIR IYARE (LAGOS A-1) REMAINS IN JAIL, PRINCIPAL SPUR FOR STUDENT AGITATION HAD ALWAYS BEEN DETENTION OF AKU. ON THIS ISSUE, FMG IS NOW IN RELATIVELY HAPPY POSITION OF HAVING STOOD FIRM IN FACE OF STUDENT PRESSURES, YET OF BEING ABLE AVOID FURTHER CHALLENGE AT TIME WHEN IT IS OCCUPIED ON LABOR FRONT.

3. INTERESTINGLY, RUMORS HAD CIRCULATED IN PAST
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TEN DAYS THAT AKU HAD DIED IN DETENTION. WHILE FEW

PEOPLE TOOK REPORTS VERY SERIOUSLY, FMG DECISION
RELEASE HIM AT THIS TIME MAY HAVE BEEN PROMPTED IN
PART BY DESIRE TO SPIKE RUMORS BEFORE THEY GAINED
WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAGOS00611
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750021-0389
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750137/aaaabgxy.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LAGOS 305
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RELEASE OF APER AKU
TAGS: PINS, NI, (AKU, APER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006